

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO USIA WASHDC

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LEKSKAR/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 2095

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 3410

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, YO

SUBJECT: STAG ALBERT JOHNSON

REF: USIA 12392

1. STAG ALBERT JOHNSON'S WEEK LONG VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA INCLUDED PROGRAMS IN BELGRADE AND ZAGREB (REPORTED SEPARATELY), AND WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. JOHNSON'S EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF CINEMA KMUPLED WITH AN EASY, OUTGOING PERSONALITY MADE HIM AN INSTANT HIT WITH YUGOSLAVS. VISIT CONTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO ACCOMPLISHMENT POST CPM OBJECTIVE V.

2. BELGRADE VISIT COINCIDED WITH LOCAL TV SERIES ENTITLED AMERICAN SOCIAL FILM ABOUT WHICH JOHNSON COMMENTED IN EXCELLENT HOUR-LONG INTERVIEW WITH DEJAN KOSANOVIC, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF DRAMATIC ARTS AND WELL-KNOWN YUGOSLAV CINEASTE. INTERVIZQTWKBLCAST NATION-WIDE PRIOR TO SHOWING LAST FILM IN SERIES (A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN). JOHNSON MADE HIGHLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION WITH KOSANOVIC WHO INVITED HIM BACK TO YUGOSLAVIA FOR PULA FILM FESTIVAL AND TO LECTURE AT FACULTY.

3. JOHNSON GAVE LECTURE ON BLACK AMERICAN FILMS TO AUDIENCE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROXIMATELY 200 AT STUDENT CULTURAL CENTER ON JUNE 24.

RECEPTION WAS EXCELLENT AND JOHNSON PRESENTED WELL ORGANIZED AND EFFECTIVE DISCOURSE. HE FIELDDED QUESTIONS WITH EASE AND A FRANKNESS THAT OCCASIONALLY SURPRISED HIS LISTENERS. LECTURE WAS PRECEDED BY SCREENING OF THE LEARNING TREE AND FOLLOWED BY SHADOWS, BOTH FILMS BY BLACK AMERICANS.

4. POST EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING UP JOHNSON OFFER TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES OF ARRANGING LOAN OF FILMS BY YOUNG AMERICAN FILM-MAKERS SCHEDULED FOR A FESTIVAL IN DEAUVILLE IN SZEVECEJ. FILMS, IF AVAILABLE, WOULD BE CENTERPIECE FOR WEEK-LONG FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM HERE IN OCTOBER. STUDENT CULTURAL CENTER WOULD BE N-SPONSOR. BELGRADE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND KFIWBPURSUING THIS QUESTION FURTHER WITH JOHNSON DURING HIS DEBRIEFING IN WASHINGTON.

5. JOHNSON WAS EXCELLENT CHOICE FOR STAG AND POST WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM HIM AGAIN IN FUTURE.
CATHERMAN

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NNN

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